



State Senator  
**BRUCE PATTERSON**

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2005-2006 MICHIGAN HUNTING SEASONS **CLIP & SAVE**

SPECIES	SEASON DATES						
	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
COTTONTAIL RABBIT & VARYING HARE	SEPT. 15 - MAR. 31						
DEER:							
YOUTH FIREARM	SEPT. 24 - 25						
SPECIAL DISABLED FIREARM HUNT		OCT. 15 - 16					
ARCHERY		OCT. 1 - NOV. 14		DEC. 1 - JAN. 1			
REGULAR FIREARM			NOV. 15 - 30				
MUZZLELOADING				DEC. 2 - 11 (ZONE 1) DEC. 9 - 18 (ZONE 2) DEC. 2 - 18 (ZONE 3)			
PHEASANT (MALE)		OCT. 10 - 31 (RESTRICTED AREA, ZONE 1) OCT. 20 - NOV. 14 (ZONES 2, 3)		DEC. 1 - JAN. 1 (RESTRICTED AREA, ZONE 3)			
QUAIL		OCT. 20 - NOV. 14 (RESTRICTED AREA)					
RUFFED GROUSE	SEPT. 15 - NOV. 14			DEC. 1 - JAN. 1			
SQUIRREL	SEPT. 15 - MAR. 1						
FALL WILD TURKEY		OCT. 3 - NOV. 17 (SEE 2005 FALL WILD TURKEY GUIDE)					
WOODCOCK	SEPT. 24 - NOV. 7						

**NOTE:** Consult the official 2005-2006 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for the full hunting schedule and to determine hunting zones, bag limits and special restrictions. Access it at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).



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## SENATOR BRUCE PATTERSON

Dear Friend:

Now that the scent of autumn is in the air, it's time to begin planning for a time-honored tradition in our state-hunting! Whether you hunt deer, turkey, small game, waterfowl or bear, Michigan has some of the best hunting opportunities available.

As your State Senator, I want to assure you that I will continue to work hard to protect your hunting rights. I also want to share some important information that may be helpful to you, including updates on hunting seasons, licensing, safety tips, new legislation and more.

I trust you will find this newsletter useful. As always, your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's legendary hunting heritage are most welcome. I wish you a safe and successful season and hope you and your family enjoy all the natural bounty Michigan has to offer.

Sincerely,  
  
Bruce Patterson  
State Senator  
7th District

# MOURNING DOVE SEASON ON HOLD

After a successful opening season last fall, the 2005 and 2006 mourning dove hunts are suspended. This abrupt reversal is due to the State Board of Canvassers' June approval of the petition signatures to put a referendum on dove hunting before the voters on the November 2006 ballot.

The 2004 hunt, the first in Michigan in nearly 100 years, was rated a good hunting experience. Over 3,000 of the 5,000 hunters who bought a dove stamp took part in the fall hunt, harvesting an average of nine doves. With the 2004 hunt, Michigan joined 40 other states in offering a hunting season on mourning doves. Its future rests with Michigan voters in November 2006.

# DON'T MOVE FIREFWOOD

Leave firewood off the checklist when packing for camp this fall! To prevent the further spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Michigan has prohibited bringing all hardwood firewood into the Upper Peninsula and surrounding states. Additionally, firewood cannot be removed from the 20-county EAB quarantine areas of southeast Michigan or from the 19 outlying quarantined areas in the Lower Peninsula.

The DNR recommends you buy your firewood locally, burn it all on site or leave it behind. Find out more information and locate the quarantined areas at [www.michigan.gov/eab](http://www.michigan.gov/eab).

# HUNTING SAFETY

Many non-hunters might be surprised to learn that hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities around. But that doesn't happen by accident. It starts with hunting safety first. Efforts like hunter education and the use of hunter orange have had a big impact on making the sport safer. In fact, the DNR has reported a significant drop in hunter-related injuries and deaths since mandatory hunter safety classes began.

So before you head out into Michigan's great outdoors, remember to hunt safely and keep these basic firearm rules in mind:

- Always have complete control of your weapon.
- Always treat your firearm as if it were loaded.
- Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.
- Always unload your weapon before putting it in your vehicle or camp.
- And, **NEVER** mix hunting and alcohol.



# YOUTH HUNTING

What better way to pass Michigan's outdoor heritage on to a new generation than by taking a young person hunting? Along with gaining new skills and a hands-on experience, the young hunter learns respect for nature and an enduring love of the land. And spending time in the great outdoors takes on new meaning when spending it with a parent, grandparent or favorite relative.

Two special events this fall can help introduce a young person to hunting.

- A youth waterfowl hunt in September for properly licensed youth (ages 12-15) is expected to be authorized by federal authorities. For details, including hunting dates, see the **2005-2006 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide**, available September 1, 2005.
- A youth firearm deer weekend will be held September 24-25. Young hunters 12-16 may take one deer during this special two-day season. Youths 12 and 13 years of age cannot hunt deer with a firearm and are restricted to archery-only hunting. Be sure and check the **2005-2006 Hunting and Trapping Guide** for other restrictions and information.

All young hunters are required to successfully complete a hunter safety course and earn a certificate before being licensed. You can look for these classes at: [www.michigandnr.com/hunting/recnsrch.asp](http://www.michigandnr.com/hunting/recnsrch.asp).

# FREE HUNTING GUIDES AVAILABLE

Visit the DNR online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) to access the **2005-2006 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide**. Along with rules and regulations, the Guide contains information on changes in the law, hunting seasons, wildlife diseases, hunting with disabilities and much more. You can also get a printed copy from your local license agent. Access specialty hunting guides for antlerless deer, fall wild turkey and elk online as well.

# SEN. PATTERSON FIGHTS TO UPHOLD HUNTING VALUES

Armchair computer hunting would be banned in Michigan under legislation passed in June by the Senate. Aimed at the relatively new practice of Internet hunting, the three-bill package would make it illegal to hunt using a computer to remotely control a firearm or crossbow or to operate such a business in the state.

These hunting operations allow "hunters" the chance to control a video camera and rifle and, with the click of a mouse, fire at game animals. This type of activity violates every standard of hunting and reduces it to the level of a trivial "point-and-click" video game. I authored one of these bills, SB 620, to maintain the integrity of Michigan's rich hunting heritage. If you would like more information on this legislative package—Senate Bills 373 and 620 and House Bill 4465—please contact my office toll-free at (866) 262.7307 or by e-mail [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov).

# DNR TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Wildlife Bureau.....	517-373-1263
Fisheries.....	517-373-1280
Parks & Recreation.....	517-373-9900
Forest Management.....	517-373-1275
Law Enforcement.....	517-373-1230
Report All Poaching.....	800-292-7800

IMPORTANT  
NUMBERS: